

Am, is, are

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Tara uses the words "am", "is" and "are" to tell us about herself and her family. Can you use the verb "to be" correctly by reading about Tara, and doing the exercises?

Tara tells us about herself



Hi, my name **is** Tara. I'm 11 years old. My eyes **are** blue and my hair **is** blond. I **am** Irish, I **am** not English. My favourite colour **is** blue, not pink.

My father's name **is** Pete and my mother's name **is** Eireen. My mother **is** a dentist and my father **is** a doctor. They **are** not at home very much. They **are** always busy.

In my village there **are** not many children. We **are** only 11 pupils at my school. My favourite sports **are** football and swimming. I do not like playing tennis. Tennis **is** boring.

What **is** your name? How old are you? What colour are your eyes? What **is** the colour of your hair? Where are you from? What **is** your favourite colour?

What **is** your father's name? What **is** your mother's name? What do they do for a living? How many pupils **are** there at your school? What **are** your favourite sports?

"To be"—present tense—positive forms

Here **is** a table that gives you all the variants of "to be" in present tense. Notice that the colouring in the table matches the colouring in the text above.

Number	Person	Pronoun	Verb	How to write it		
Singular	1.	I	am	I am	→	I'm
	2.	you	are	you are		you're
	3.	he, she, it	is	he is , she is , it is		he's, she's, it's
Plural	1.	we	are	we are	→	we're
	2.	you	are	you are		you're
	3.	they	are	they are		they're

"To be"—present tense—negative forms

And here is the table that gives you all the negative variants of "to be" in present tense. Notice that here too the colouring in the table matches the colouring in the text above.

Number	Person	Pronoun	Verb	How to write it
Singular	1.	I	am not	I am not
	2.	you	are not	you are not
	3.	he, she, it	is not	he is not, she is not, it is not
Plural	1.	we	are not	we are not
	2.	you	are not	you are not
	3.	they	are not	they are not

→	I'm not
	you're not
	he's not, she's not, it's not
→	we're not
	you're not
	they're not

Suggested topics for philosophical discussion

1. Tara's favourite colour is blue. What is your favourite colour (if you have one)? Why do we have such things as favourite colours? How do we know when a colour is our favourite? Do you have other favourite things? Do you for instance have a favourite:

- singer/pop band?
- animal?
- pair of shoes/pair of trousers/headwear?
- car?
- athlete?
- book?
- person?

How did these things become your favourites: by your own choice or by other people's opinions? Do you think that you are somebody's favourite person? Would you like to be somebody's favourite person? Why? Why not?

2. Tara has busy parents. They work a lot. Do you want to work a lot when you grow up? Is adult life all work and no play? Do you look forward to becoming an adult? Or would you prefer to remain a child for the rest of your life?
3. There are only 11 pupils in Tara's class. How many pupils are there in your class? In your opinion, what is the ideal number of pupils in a school class? Does it matter how old the children are? Would it be best if there were fewer pupils in the primary schools and more pupils in the secondary schools? Or perhaps vice versa?
4. What kinds of things do you think are boring? Do you think that school is boring? Why? Can you think of a school that would not be boring? If school were more interesting or exciting, do you think your leisure time would then seem boring instead? Should school be boring because then we will enjoy our leisure time even more?